

**USAO – Northern Indiana – Week in Review Hammond, South Bend and Fort Wayne Federal Courts  
3/20/2015**

**WEEK IN REVIEW – HAMMOND**

Hammond, Indiana — The United States Attorney's Office announced the following activity in Federal Court:  
PLEAS

Keandria C. Jones, 25, of Gary, Indiana pled guilty to the felony offense of making a false statement in connection with the acquisition of a firearm in violation of 18 U.S.C ' 922(a)(g). This charge was filed as a result of an investigation by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Sentencing has been set for June 25, 2015. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas J. Padilla

If convicted in court, any specific sentence to be imposed will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

**DISPOSITIONS**

Robinson Morales, 37, of East Chicago, Indiana, was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment with 2 years supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to documents filed in this case, on March 15, 2013, Morales possessed a .22 caliber pistol after having been convicted of crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding one year. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas J. Padilla.

Jose L. Ruiz-Medina, 49, of Hammond, Indiana was sentenced to time served and will face immigration removal proceedings after pleading guilty to the felony offense of illegal re-entry. According to documents filed in this case, the defendant had been previously deported to Mexico from the United States after having been convicted of a felony offense in the State of California. On or about October 2014, the defendant, a citizen of Mexico, illegally re-entered the United States and eluded and evaded immigration officials until found and arrested by law enforcement. This case was the result of an investigation by the Homeland Security Investigations. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randall Stewart.

**WEEK IN REVIEW – SOUTH BEND**

South Bend, Indiana — The United States Attorney's Office announced the following activity in Federal Court:  
PLEAS

Jason C. Roames, 35, of Michigan City, Indiana pled guilty to the felony offense of possession of child pornography. The magistrate judge is recommending that the district court accept the tendered guilty plea. Parties have 14 days in which to object to the magistrate judge's recommendation. This charge was filed as a result of an investigation by the FBI. Sentencing has been set for June 28, 2015. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Maciejczyk.

Ewing Teal, 26, of South Bend, Indiana pled guilty to the felony offense of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base (crack). The magistrate judge is recommending that the district court accept the tendered guilty plea. Parties have 14 days in which to object to the magistrate judge's recommendation. This charge was filed as a result of an investigation by DEA. Sentencing has been set for June 24, 2015. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Schaffer.

Jordan Gutkowski, 28, of Michigan City, Indiana pled guilty to the felony offense of conspiracy to distribute heroin. The magistrate judge is recommending that the district court accept the tendered guilty plea. Parties have 14 days in which to object to the magistrate judge's recommendation. This charge was filed as a result of an investigation by DEA. Sentencing has been set for June 25, 2015. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Schaffer.

Miguel Gregory Vera, 23, of South Bend, Indiana pled guilty to the felony offenses of false statements on acquisition of a firearm and drug user in possession of firearms. The magistrate judge is recommending that the district court accept the tendered guilty plea. Parties have 14 days in which to object to the magistrate judge's recommendation. This charge was filed as a result of an investigation by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Sentencing has been set for June 17, 2015. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Schaffer.

If convicted in court, any specific sentence to be imposed will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

#### **DISPOSITIONS**

Justin Bowles, 25, of South Bend, Indiana was sentenced to 60 months imprisonment with 4 years supervised release after pleading guilty to the felony offense of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base over 28 grams. According to documents filed in this case, on April 10, 2014, in a residence located in South Bend, Bowles possessed a package containing a white rocklike substance that was cocaine base (crack). It was Bowles intent to sell this substance. This case was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Schaffer.

#### **WEEK IN REVIEW – FORT WAYNE**

Fort Wayne, Indiana — The United States Attorney's Office announced the following activity in Federal Court:  
**DISPOSITIONS**

Ashley Taylor, 26, of Fort Wayne, Indiana was sentenced to 1 year probation and ordered to pay \$370.33 in restitution after pleading guilty to the felony offense of theft or receipt of stolen mail matter. According to documents filed in this case, on or about July 23, 2014, Taylor unlawfully possessed mail matter which had been stolen. Postal customers in the 46845 zip code had filed numerous complaints with the Allen County Sherriff's Department and the United States Postal Inspector about missing or stolen mail, or about finding open, discarded mail in their area. This case was the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Allen County Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Tina L. Nommay and Nathaniel C. Henson.

Pedro Castaneda, Jr., 41, of Fort Wayne, Indiana was sentenced to 57 months imprisonment with 1 year supervised release and ordered to forfeit \$1,000, after pleading guilty to the felony offense of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine. According to documents filed in this case, from on or about November 8, 2010, and continuing to on or about April 13, 2011, Castaneda knowingly and intentionally conspired to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Fort Wayne Safe Streets Task Force, Indiana State Police, Fort Wayne Police Department, Allen County Police Department, Allen County Drug Task Force and the New Haven Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anthony W. Geller.

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